



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Saturday, 14th October 2023

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Daily Telegraph \(page 1\)](#)** reports that a 114-page independent review into Swimming Australia's treatment of female athletes and coaches has revealed a toxic culture that tolerated the physical and mental abuse, body shaming and public humiliation of girls and women. In a statement, Swimming Australia said, "The Board had considered public release of the full report, however, decided against release due to the significant risk to the confidentiality, and potentially mental health, of those people who had provided input to the panel".
- **[The Herald Sun \(page 26\)](#)** reports that researchers from Monash University and Alfred Hospital have discovered a potential treatment for sufferers of osteoarthritis in the form of an already available cancer drug which reduces pain and stiffness when taken in small doses. Senior author and Monash University musculoskeletal unit head Flavia Cicuttini said, "I've been looking after my patients for a long time and it's fantastic that now ... we have a drug that we can offer to patients".
- **[The Guardian](#)** reports that a complaint has been lodged by Queensland Police over the treatment of a teenage sexual assault victim at a Queensland hospital, who said she "felt humiliated" from her experience with medical staff. A Queensland Police spokesperson said

they were unable to comment further about the case for “privacy reason,” while Health Minister Shannon Fentiman offered an “unreserved apology” to the victim on Thursday.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### Hundreds heed the call to get skin checked

Narromine Star, General News, 12/10/2023, Sharon Bonthuys, Page 1

Hundreds of Narromine Shire residents heeded the call to get their skin checked at the visiting service provided by the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation (ASCF) Skin Check Truck last week. [...] When the Skin Check Truck visited Parliament House in Canberra last month, Mr Allen, foundation staff, and staff from program partner MoleMap Australia met with the federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Mark Butler MP.

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### NPs made to wait

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Julianne Bryce, Page 38

After more than a decade of lobbying and advocacy, the May Federal Budget saw the introduction of funding for long-awaited reforms for NPs and for, most importantly, the people for whom they provide care. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced there would be \$46.8 million to fund Medicare rebates for care provided by NPs, and that the rebate would increase by 30%.

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### Parents worried as vaping epidemic continues to grow

9Now Nine, Other, 13/10/2023, Tom Livingstone

It has been five months since the federal government announced a multi-million dollar crackdown on vaping in Australia. [...] "Initially we were advised we might have to pass laws through nine different parliaments, but we've now come up with an operation we think means we can put it just through the Commonwealth Parliament," Federal Health Minister, Mark Butler said.

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### Free shingles vaccination from November

Coast Community News, Other, 13/10/2023

From November 1 thousands of Central Coast residents will have free access to the best protection against shingles through one of the most comprehensive and widely available vaccination programs in the world. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler said without vaccination, almost one in three Australians will get shingles in their lifetime.

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### NHMRC backs bowel screening expansion to start at 45

The Limbic, Other, 12/10/2023, Geir O'Rourke

Australians could soon begin receiving bowel cancer screening test kits from age 45 and upwards after the NHMRC backed an expansion of the national screening program. [...] However Minister for Health Mark Butler is yet to commit to the expansion, which would reportedly add an extra \$33 million annually to the cost of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

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## MINISTER WELLS

### Beware of water dangers as we face a long hot summer

Narromine Star, General News, 12/10/2023, Page 11

The return of hot dry conditions after three years of mild, high-rainfall summers has prompted a warning about the dangers of our waterways for unaware swimmers. [...] Federal Minister for Aged Care and Sport, Anika Wells, said the Australian Government was determined to support organisations like Royal Life Saving Society Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia to raise water safety awareness ahead of summer.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

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### LGBTQI mental health in 'state of crisis'

Canberra Times, Other, 13/10/2023, Esther Linder

The first survey of LGBTQI people's wellbeing in Australia shows rates of mental illness double to quadruple that of the general population. [...] "It's critical that we get a whole of government and societal response," Ms Bath said, noting the establishment of a national expert advisory group on LGBTQI health announced by Assistant Minister for Health Ged Kearney in June.

*Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Perth Now \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications*

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### Millions committed for intellectual disability support

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 13/10/2023

Australians living with intellectual disabilities will benefit from improved support, health services and groundbreaking research as part of the government's plan to bolster the nation's health systems. [...] Drawing on experiences with her sister who has an intellectual disability, Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney said she has seen the challenges these Australians face.

*Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#), and widely syndicated across regional publications*

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### National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health

Retail Pharmacy Assistants, Other, 13/10/2023, Katrina Crawford

The National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health was opened October 13 by the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP. The Centre will be a catalyst for action to ensure people with intellectual disability have improved access to quality, timely and comprehensive health care.

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## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCCARTHY

### "Hope is such a powerful medicine": Yes campaigners highlight benefits of Voice

National Indigenous Times, Other, 13/10/2023

The Yes campaign used an event in Melbourne on Thursday to urge people that a Yes vote would be a decision that would help bring all Australians together. [...] Senator and Yanyuwa woman Malarndirri McCarthy, who defended the Northern Territory over the weekend from claims made by former Prime Minister John Howard that it amounted to a "failed state," said she was "deeply proud" of Territorians.

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## DEPARTMENT

### User-pays care fine to a point

Area News, General News, 13/10/2023, Cheryl Field, Page 10

Aged care - to pay or not to pay, that is the question. [...] The report describes a sector under enormous economic pressure, citing Department of Health and Aged Care figures that show more than half of aged care facilities are operating at a loss and at least 18 aged care homes have closed or are due to close this year.

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### The resource we need but hope never to use- Pandemic Quarantine Facility Guide

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Angela Sheedy, Page 32

For any nurses working on the frontline early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the health system was evidently unprepared to respond to such a large-scale event. [...] The Pandemic Quarantine Facility Guide has now been completed and is available for health departments to access and adapt as required.

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### IPEPA Animations - breaking down the barriers to palliative care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Allyra Hulme and Sharon Wetzig, Page 47

The Indigenous Program of Experience in Palliative Approach (IPEPA) animation project is a series of videos drawing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural strengths and perspectives to educate and entertain communities and health professionals in a grass-roots way. [...] IPEPA is funded by the

Australian Government Department of Health and delivered by QUT, but our strength is that we are a program for our community, by our community.

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## **Doxy-PEP recommended as 'morning after' pill to reduce STIs among gay, bisexual men**

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Paige Cockburn

More than 60 years since the "morning after" pill to prevent unwanted pregnancies became available in Australia, there's a new kind of "morning after" pill on the scene and for a very different reason. [...] The latest surveillance report by the Department of Health found non-Indigenous women had the biggest proportional increase in syphilis rates in the past 12 months.

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## **Managing older people's health during heatwaves**

Aged Health, Other, 13/10/2023

The Department of Health and Aged Care is reminding providers to prepare for managing the health of older people during heatwaves. Severe heatwaves are likely to be a part of this high-risk weather season, and heatwaves affect the health of older people more than other groups, the Department said in a statement.

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## **60-day scripts could encourage govt to cut care plans, letter to GPs claims**

Australian Doctor, Other, 13/10/2023, Rachel Fieldhouse

GPs who write 60-day scripts are giving the Federal Government reasons to cut chronic disease care plan rebates, a letter from pharmacists is warning. [...] In response, a federal Department of Health and Aged Care spokesperson said the government had "no plans to consider fees for MBS items based on 60-day dispensing data".

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## **How consulting made Blair Comley a better public servant**

Australian Financial Review, Other, 13/10/2023, Ronald Mizen

The incoming Health Department boss has helped reform the GST, design Kevin Rudd's carbon reduction scheme and Julia Gillard's carbon tax. He answers our public servant Q&A.

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## **Queensland polities recognise community pharmacists**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/10/2023, Megan Haggan

The Queensland branch of the Guild has recognised some key players in the state with awards.

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## **ATAGI recommends additional Covid booster for over 75s**

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/10/2023, Wilson Tan

The Australia Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has issued fresh recommendations regarding booster doses of Covid-19 vaccinations. Advice released by the Department of Health and Aged Care today (12 October 2023), is that patients aged over 75 years

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## **Training session on new Prescribed List products**

Biotech Dispatch, Other, 10/10/2023

An introductory in-person training on the new Prescribed List (PL) products is occurring on 8 November for sponsors to gain critical insights for PL applications. With the introduction of new processes and the release of the new PL (formerly Prostheses List) Guide, the MTAA is conducting a training session with the Department of Health and Aged Care for sponsors of Prescribed List products.

## **Referendum mental health toll on First Nations community won't 'miraculously' ease on Saturday**

Crikey, Other, 13/10/2023, Anton Nilsson

Racism, trauma and an expectation First Nations peoples should educate others on the Voice referendum have led to increased psychological stress, an expert says. [...] National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research professor Raymond Lovett said the aim of the project was to give the Health Department and mental health service provider agencies information so that they could "respond with timely provision of mental health supports".

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## **On World Mental Health Day, research highlights importance of lived experience for climate, health and housing policies**

Croakey, Other, 10/10/2023, Melissa Sweet

=On World Mental Health Day, it is timely to consider the many ways that climate change harms mental health and wellbeing, and the importance of comprehensive responses across multiple portfolios and sectors. [...] This is especially important and relevant in the current context of the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care development of the National Health and Climate Strategy.

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## **People with private health insurance save the government \$550 a year, on average**

The New Daily, Other, 13/10/2023, Francesco Paolucci and Josefa Henriquez

The federal government has, for a long time, encouraged Australians to get private health insurance, in an attempt to reduce the financial burden on the public health system. [...] Our analysis, which was commissioned and funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care, found large benefits to the government, especially when older people sign up for private insurance.

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## **CORONAVIRUS**

### **Seniors should book a COVID booster**

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/10/2023

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) yesterday updated its advice for the COVID-19 booster dose. ATAGI has suggested that if it has been six months since receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, an additional dose is recommended for people aged 75 or older.

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## **AGEING AND AGED CARE**

### **Week celebrates the valued and varied contribution of older people and challenges ageism head-on**

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/10/2023, Craig Chadwick, Page 46

As we approach the 25th annual seniors week in Tasmania (October 16-22, organised by Council On The Ageing Tasmania) and the UN's Older Persons' Day earlier in the month, we should reflect on the significance of these events and shed light on an issue that often goes unnoticed - ageism.

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### **Aged residents emerge from rooms in crafty way**

Elderly residents have been smiling from ear to ear during a special workshop in an aged care home, with staff saying some will quickly emerge from their bedrooms just to take part in it. A merging of forces between Western NSW Local Health District and Arts Outwest, the Virtual Art Snacks program was introduced back in August 2021, giving Blayney Multi Purpose Service (MPS) residents exclusive access to professional artists.

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## Poor lifestyle in 60s linked to risk of aged care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 7

Physical inactivity, smoking, poor diet and sleep disorders between the age of 60 and 64 are linked with more than double the risk of admission to aged care. The University of Sydney study involving over 125,000 Australians, aged over 60 years assessed five key risk factors: smoking; physical activity levels; sitting time; sleep patterns; and diet.

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## Financial pressures nudging retirees back to work

Daily Mail Australia, Other, 14/10/2023

Many Australians in their twilight years are jumping out of retirement and back into the workforce to make friends, regain a sense of accomplishment and keep up with rising living costs. A survey of Australians aged 60 years and above by online marketplace Fiverr found one in 10 had returned to some kind of work after retirement and another 13 per cent were considering it.

*Widely syndicated across regional publications*

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## “It's all joy”: Care worker loves to help vulnerable people relive their lives

HelloCare, Other, 13/10/2023, Bianca Iovino

In light of National Carers Week (October 15-21), it is a timely reminder that some of the most rewarding careers aren't the ones with fancy titles, but the ones that match our innate passions and desire to make a difference. Barbara Solace Nyarkoh, 32, served as a civil servant at one of the Government agencies in her home country of Ghana before her husband was accepted to pursue a PhD in Australia.

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## Retirement living investments could ease aged care's financial burden

HelloCare, Other, 13/10/2023, Alex Jacobs

With Government spending on the aged care sector rising significantly an additional \$5.06 billion is going to the sector this financial year the Retirement Living Council has presented a number of solutions that could help ease the burden and ensure funding is not burnt out sooner than later.

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## POPULATION HEALTH

### I didn't think my UTI was that bad so I left it alone, then I got septic shock

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 13/10/2023, Alexandra Feiam

“This is the reality of what a UTI can lead to,” Maisie says in the clip. As any woman will know, discomfort and awkward pain are common side effects of urinary tract infections For Cardiff-based hairdresser Maisie, it was just another UTI .

*Also reported by:* [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

## Can coffee help you avoid weight gain? Here's what the science says

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/10/2023, Lauren Ball and Emily Burch

Coffee is well recognised as having a positive impact on long-term health. Drinking the equivalent of three to four cups of instant coffee a day reduces the risk of many health conditions including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Most people gain small amounts of weight each year as they age.

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## Channel 7, Seven News, 13/10/2023, Susannah Carr and Rick Ardon

Australian scientists are calling for quick action to treat the growing crisis of male infertility. Researchers warn infertile men also face a higher risk of suffering other chronic illnesses.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/10/2023, Michael Thompson

Australian doctors are at the forefront of an international mission to unravel the mystery of male infertility. Specialists hope the answers will help them improve the health of future generations. Infertility now affects 1 in 6 couples of reproductive age. About half the time it originates from the male. Professor Robert McLachlan from Healthy Male says low sperm count is not a diagnosis, it's a description.

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## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Bowel cancer bungle

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2023, Timothy Cox, Page 18

Seven people have been diagnosed with bowel cancer following a colonoscopy recheck at a Murray River community involving almost 2000 patients. [...] The Cancer Council estimates more than 15,300 people were diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2023, making it the fourth-most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Cancer cases discovered as part of Border testing recall

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2023, Janet Howie, Page 9

Seven people have been diagnosed with cancer following repeat colonoscopies done as part of a recall involving nearly 2000 Border patients. Safer Care Victoria said on Friday the Albury Wodonga Region Colonoscopy Recall was now complete.

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### Recommendations for inclusive, safe, high-quality breast cancer screening for transgender people

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 31

The term transgender describes a diverse group of individuals who transcend culturally defined categories of gender. The gender identity of transgender people differs to varying degrees from the sex they were assigned at birth.

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### Sydney woman's fight for life after simple test revealed devastating diagnosis



A healthy' woman who went to the doctor for a simple check up has been left fighting for her life after she was diagnosed with a deadly cancer. Back in March 2022, Hannah Thomas had the world at her feet.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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## BreastScreen NT and survivors swim at Crocosaurus Cove for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Northern Territory News, Other, 13/10/2023, Zizi Averill

Given a choice between a 15-minute breast screen and a dip with a prehistoric monster croc, health worker Natalie Stokes said most women would chose the crocodile. The BreastScreen NT ambassador and two cancer survivors took the ultimate plunge on Friday, jumping into the Crocosaurus Cove pool with Leo a 750kg mass of teeth, scales, muscle and might to raise awareness for October's Breast Cancer Month.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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## thebox and TOBY for Childhood Cancer receive international recognition for brand design

West Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Rachel Green

Busselton-based agency thebox has just gained a huge achievement in brand design. TOBY for Childhood Cancer has received the Asia and Oceania Bronze award at the Best Brand Awards, while also earning the distinction of being the highest-awarded brand in Australia.

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## South West women urged to take heed of symptoms during Breast Cancer Awareness Month

West Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Rachel Green

Women in the South West region are encouraged to use Breast Cancer Awareness Month as a reminder to be aware and educated of the common symptoms. Cancer Council WA South West regional education officer Julie Rose said many women from around regional WA are known to delay going to a GP or medical clinic when experiencing symptoms.

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## Telethon 2023: Researchers looking for new treatments for kids like Charlie Fry, who battles brain cancer

West Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Rebecca Parish

In the year since he was diagnosed with a paediatric brain cancer known as Medulloblastoma, three-year-old Charlie Fry has at times received chemotherapy doses higher than some adult cancer patients would. It's an intense treatment regime that Charlie's mum Eve Fry said has taken a huge toll on her son's little body.

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## Seven people diagnosed with colorectal cancer after incomplete colonoscopies mass recall

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Faith Tabalujan

Seven people have been diagnosed with colorectal cancer after health authorities conducted nearly 1,100 repeat colonoscopies for patients who received defective treatment across four years. Health authorities consulted nearly 2,000 patients during the now-complete Albury Wodonga Region Colonoscopy Recall.

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## Arthritis Medication Made Easy

As World Arthritis Day approaches on October 12, it's essential to shed light on the almost four million Australians grappling with various forms of arthritis, which significantly impact their daily lives. Projections indicate that this number will rise to 5.4 million by 2030, highlighting the urgency of addressing the unique challenges faced by this community.

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## Get an ECG, older folk – you might have atrial fibrillation

The New Daily, Other, 13/10/2023, John Elder

How is your heartbeat going? No worries? [...] According to the Heart Foundation: "In atrial fibrillation, abnormal electrical activity in the top chambers of the heart overwhelms the heart's own pacemaker (part of its electrical system) and the conduction messages become chaotic."

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## Channel 7, Sunrise, 13/10/2023, Natalie Barr and Matt Shirvington

Interview with Professor Jo Douglass, University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Victoria is experiencing its earliest start to the pollen season in more than 30 years. Health experts are urging asthma and hay fever sufferers to start taking precautions now as the Victoria enters the peak period for thunderstorm asthma. Douglass says hay fever is very common in Australia, and it affects about 1 in 5 people.

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## Channel 9, National Nine News, 13/10/2023, Michael Thompson

Researchers at Harry Perkins Institute are hoping liver cancer could one day be managed as a chronic disease. Scientists are working to develop a vaccine that could prevent cancer in high risk patients, by studying the environment needed for tumours to grow.

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## PRIMARY CARE

### Bee sting victim a much-loved father

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/10/2023, Justin Fris and Josh Zimmerman, Page 22

The South West man who died from a bee sting highlighting ambulance shortages in regional areas was a beloved father of two and a local cricketing legend. Jake Rudd, 45, died last Saturday after he was stung by a bee in a tragic incident that prompted an anonymous St John WA paramedic to speak out about the lack of ambulance cover in the region.

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### Insult to injury: Private insurance saga causes angst

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2023, Layton Holley, Page 6

Medibank Gold customer Joanne Green thought she was covered by insurance when her husband required an urgent ambulance transfer in a severe condition. However, when she received a \$2000 bill in the mail and claimed it with Medibank, it was rejected.

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### Time to ask questions on 'revamp' is now

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2023, Di Thomas, Page 28

In late March 2022, a small group of community leaders came together as Better Border Health to engage their support for the Border Medical Association and its longterm campaign to urge governments to commit to a new single site hospital. The clinicians have been consistent in their opinion as to what is needed.

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## Plan to lock away some land fits the bill for Border hospital

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2023, Bill Tilley, Page 28

It's time to reimagine what a new hospital for the Border might look like. The jungle drums are beating that something's brewing with the DIY job at Albury hospital.

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## New Grove health hub to target young

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 13/10/2023, Tamara McDonald, Page 15

A new health hub to be built in Ocean Grove is set to focus on providing child and youth services in the booming area. The hub, on Goodwell Drive, is expected to include services such as speech pathology, occupational therapy and other allied health services.

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## \$53m project takes next step, awards open

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/10/2023, Kevin Anderson, Page 54

This week, the NSW Government appointed Richard Crookes Constructions to deliver the \$53 million Gunnedah Hospital. This confirms the \$53 million commitment from the former government is locked away and a company with a strong track record of delivering health infrastructure in our region will take on responsibility to build the hospital.

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## Hearty thanks to responders

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/10/2023, Page 18

A Mildura nurse says she feels "lucky" to be alive after her heart stopped in her sleep back in May. Five months on, Brenda Beattie, 55, has thanked the GoodSAM responder and paramedics who saved her life.

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## What is effective patient education?

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Olivia Sonneborn, Page 57

Effective patient education can empower patients, improving patient satisfaction and understanding, and reduce hospital length of stay and hospital readmissions for patients. However, current evidence has yet to agree on the most effective patient education method.

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## Karratha electric vehicle maintenance hub, allied health facility the winners in latest RED grant funding

West Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Daniel Spence

Four Pilbara projects will share more than \$750,000 to help build regional business diversity and resilience under the latest round of the State Government's Regional Economic Development grant program. Indigenous-owned local renewables rental business Red Dog Renewables will use its \$250,000 grant to develop an electric vehicle maintenance hub in Karratha.

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## Whyalla mothers share 'traumatic' childbirth stories after hospital shutters birthing services

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Arj Ganesan and Isabella Carbone

Expecting mothers forced to travel up to four and a half hours to have their babies since the closure of a local birthing service are now "just making it" to hospital before giving birth. Two women from Whyalla in South Australia's Eyre Peninsula have told the ABC of the "traumatic" experience of having no birthing service in town.

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## Pharmacists urge breaking of ADHD barriers

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 14/10/2023, Megan Haggan

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's Jerry Yik and Natalie Tasker "highlighted the difficulty that patients and clinicians experience with the different legislative requirements in each state to access stimulant therapy, which can be particularly problematic...

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## Automatic UTI follow-up text recommended

Australian Journal of Pharmacy, Other, 13/10/2023, Spili Geftakis

SMS messages could be used to check in on women who receive treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) through a proposed pharmacy-initiated program in South Australia...

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## Two new choppers for SA emergency services

In Daily, Other, 13/10/2023, David Simmons

The state government will spend \$150 million on two new helicopters for SA's police and ambulance services. The new State Rescue Helicopter Service (SRHS) helicopters are expected to boost response time and operational capacity for emergency services once operational by the end of 2024.

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## A third of nurses report witnessing patients die due to staff shortages, new global survey finds

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/10/2023

A third of frontline nurses have had patients die in their care due to staff shortages, a new global survey has found, revealing the extent to which healthcare systems are struggling across the world. More than half of the survey respondents said they regularly think about quitting and have raised concerns about the state of their countries' health systems.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Gen Health

Sydney Morning Herald, Business News, 14/10/2023, Colin Kruger, Page 1

Young Australians have emerged from COVID lockdowns with a fresh perspective on their health - especially mental health and it is putting them at the forefront of a revolution sweeping through the sector. A report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) this week highlighted just how prevalent the mental health issue is for all of us.

Also reported by: [The Saturday Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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### Virtual reality meditation mental health 'game-changer'

Canberra Times, General News, 14/10/2023, Lanie Tindale, Page 3

Todd Berry was one of those people who just couldn't meditate. "Sitting in my room with my legs crossed trying to think about nothing was really difficult for me," he said.

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### LGBTQI mental health in 'state of crisis', new Australian survey results show

Canberra Times, General News, 14/10/2023, Page 25

The first survey of LGBTQI people's wellbeing in Australia shows rates of mental illness double to quadruple that of the general population. The latest National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing

release, with data from 2020 to 2022, gives a snapshot of key mental health issues across the country broken down by demographics including gender and sexuality.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Working on wellbeing

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2023, Lauren Ahwan, Page 74

Worker wellbeing is continuing to deteriorate, sparking fears that staff absenteeism could soon surpass levels recorded during the pandemic. Almost one in seven Aussie workers are now reporting a decline in their physical health, while more than one in 10 are facing significant mental health challenges, according to global healthcare leader Telus Health.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## LGBTQI anxiety soars

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/10/2023, Page 35

The first survey of LGBTQI people's wellbeing in Australia shows rates of mental illness double to quadruple that of the general population. The latest National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing release, with data from 2020 to 2022, revealed that 50.3 per cent of the LGBTQI population had anxiety disorders, compared with just 15.9 per cent for the heterosexual respondents.

Also reported by: [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).

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## A 135km journey full of lessons

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/10/2023, Justin Langer, Page 36

Trekking for five days tested me physically, but it's worth every ache if it means helping children who battle mental health issues As Mental Health Week comes to a close, I'm reflecting on five days where I immersed myself in nature challenging my body, building a new community, and nourishing my mind as a part of the zero2hero CEO's trek. For a couple of years I convinced myself that it would be impossible to take a week out of my calendar to complete the gruelling 135km walk.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## 'Green time' a tech antidote

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/10/2023, Pam Bubrzycki, Page 158

Last week the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the 2020-2022 National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing. The figures are confronting, especially when it comes to youth mental health.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Dogs, punching bags and a fishbowl

Central Western Daily, General News, 14/10/2023, Tanya Marschke, Page 2

For 40 years a small team of people have been raising money and working to improve the lives of people receiving mental health treatment. Members and supporters of the Bloomfield Hospital Auxiliary gathered at the Orange City Bowling Club to celebrate that anniversary on Wednesday, October 11.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Families invited to cherish 'little lives we've lost'

Daily Liberal, General News, 14/10/2023, Orlander Ruming, Page 2

"You are not alone." That's the message for those who have been impacted by pregnancy or infancy loss at a new commemorative walk.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Language struggle mental health link

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/10/2023, Duncan Bailey, Page 12

Almost \$1 million in federal funding will go towards the University of Tasmania to research best

approaches to supporting the mental health of children with language difficulties. Up to four children in every classroom experience significant difficulty with oral and/or written language, putting them at a higher risk of developing mental health problems.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## School stands tall on mental health help

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/10/2023, Bethany Westwood and Evan Morgan, Page 3

Townsville University Hospital has painted a large gum tree blue on its eastern campus for Queensland Mental Health Week, from October 7-15. Townsville Hospital and Health board chairman Tony Mooney described the painted tree as a positive step in breaking down the stigma associated with mental illness.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## \$47m for mental health

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 13/10/2023, Cameron Bates, Page 15

New mental health clinicians are being recruited to provide specialist services, including for alcohol and drug abuse, for youth in Townsville. Queensland Health said on Wednesday that it was investing \$47m in 2023-24 in a suite of child and youth mental health, alcohol and other drugs initiatives, including embedding clinicians in headspace services in 15 health services across Queensland.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Mothers in prison embrace parenting program to strengthen bonds with separated children

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 6

A new prison parenting program has been developed to help ease the strain of separation experienced by women imprisoned in Australia and their children and maintain important mother-child bonding.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Nurse Practitioner-led services supporting optimisation of treatment for depression in primary care

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Rasa Kabaila, Page 34

Depression is often a recurrent or chronic condition across a person's lifespan. As well as the direct impact on health, depression has substantive direct and indirect costs for the individual, their families and society.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Suicide education for nurses from people with lived experience

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Taylor Yousiph, Page 45

Suicide is a global tragedy. Globally, more than 700,000 people die due to suicide each year.<sup>1</sup> In the Australian context, suicide continues to have a devastating impact.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Increase your health and happiness by spending more time outside

Canberra Times, Other, 14/10/2023

Earlier this year, NSW reported that nature prescriptions - that is, a doctor recommending a patient spend more time in nature - had proven physical and mental health benefits. With a growing amount of evidence pointing towards the health benefits of spending time outdoors, it makes sense to create a tranquil front or backyard at home so you're naturally drawn to spending time there.

*Widely syndicated across regional publications*

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## Headspace expansion: 50 mental health workers needed after \$32m funding commitment from state government

The Courier Mail, Other, 13/10/2023, Michael Nolan

The Queensland government has \$32m to spend for regional mental health services and the race is on to fill those roles. Headspace CEO Jason Trethowan says feelings of loneliness in young people is on the rise and a "major public health issue".

[Read More](#)

## In a world of pain

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/10/2023

The latest tranche of the Mental Health Online Report highlights that one in five adults and one in seven young people experienced a mental health disorder in the previous 12 months. Of interest to pharmacists, 4.7 million people or 18% of Australians, filled a mental health-related medication prescription in 2021-22.

[Read More](#)

## Inquest into deaths of trans and gender-diverse Victorians to investigate emotional support services

The Guardian, Other, 13/10/2023, Adeshola Ore

Emotional wellbeing support for transgender people will be investigated as part of a coronial inquiry into the suspected suicides of five people who were undergoing gender affirmation processes before their deaths. The Victorian coroners will next month begin a four-day inquest into the deaths of five transgender and gender-diverse people between 2020 and 2021.

[Read More](#)

## AUSactive's Fit for Office campaign shows the importance of physical activity on mental wellbeing

Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser, Other, 13/10/2023, Barrie Elvish

October is Mental Health Month and Australia is in the grip of a mental health and inactivity crisis. One in five Australians have experienced a mental disorder in the past 12 months, and one in eight people worldwide live with a mental disorder.

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## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

### Editorial

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Annie Butler, Page 3

Earlier this year, the Albanese Government unveiled its May Budget, a commitment to review the scope of practice for healthcare professionals including nurses and midwives. Acting on this commitment, the government recently introduced a workforce review aimed at examining how to enable health practitioners to work to their full scope of practice.

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## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Doctor told to seek a factory job

The Saturday Age, General News, 14/10/2023, Aisha Dow, Page 8

Not so long ago, Edriss Noorzai was an oncologist, treating patients with cancer in a Kabul hospital. But when he arrived in Australia from Afghanistan in 2022, he was told by employment agencies that it would be better if his resume didn't mention he was a specialist doctor.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Medical school providing pipeline for young doctors to stay home

Burnie Advocate, General News, 14/10/2023, Simon McGuire, Page 5

A new rural medical education centre has opened at the Mersey Community Hospital. The state government committed \$4.3 million towards the Rural Medical Workforce Centre which had its first public showing on Friday.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Petition to bring doctor to Barraba tabled in parliament

Northern Daily Leader, General News, 14/10/2023, Page 12

A petition to bring a doctor to the community of Barraba has been tabled in the NSW parliament. More than 1000 people will have their voices heard, after Tamworth MP Kevin Anderson lodged the petition on their behalf.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## OT shortage prompts call

Townsville Bulletin, General News, 14/10/2023, Leighton Smith, Page 7

A severe shortage of occupational therapists in North Queensland causing burnout and stress has prompted a call for more students to pursue careers in Allied Health. Occupational therapy is a branch of health care that helps people of all ages who have physical, sensory, or cognitive problems, to overcome barriers and help them regain independence in their lives.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## The Vivian Bullwinkel statue: Honouring a heroic legacy in nursing

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, James Lloyd, Page 9

The sculpture of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel is the first to commemorate the service of an individual nurse or woman at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The recent unveiling of this statue in July 2023 is a powerful testament to nurses' unwavering dedication, resilience, and sacrifice worldwide.

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## National nurse and midwife health service: coming to you in 2024

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Natalie Dragon, Page 10

A national service to support the health and wellbeing of nurses and midwives is now in implementation phase and on target to launch in early 2024.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Global Unity and Resilience: A Glimpse into the 29th ICN Congress 2023

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Kathryn Anderson, Page 14

In July this year, over 6,000 enthusiastic nurses from around the world converged in Montreal, Canada, transcending borders and backgrounds to tackle shared healthcare challenges. Under the theme Nurses Together: A Force for Global Health, the Congress illuminated the remarkable unity within the nursing profession.

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## Midwives go green in bid to reduce waste footprint

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Robert Fedele, Page 18

A recent 'Green Maternity Intervention' program led by midwives at Western Health's Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital in Victoria resulted in a 71% decrease in clinical waste and a 48% reduction in waste management costs.

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## How exceptional leadership can improve retention and ignite be er nursing and midwifery care



Creating better leaders is the linchpin to happier people, better organisations and societies, according to Simon Sinek, world-renowned speaker, author, ethnographer and founder of the Optimism Company in the US.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## **Positions vacant: The unintended adverse effects of 'nurse influencers' on nurse recruitment**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Lucy Gardam, Page 26

School leavers have more career options available to them now than ever before. Female leavers who traditionally account for most of the student nurse cohort are actively being encouraged to consider careers in a wider range of fields.

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## **Speaking up against injustice and unfairness**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 28

Speaking up against injustice and unfairness, even when others around me remain silent, is a value I hold close to my heart. My name is Justin Nixon, and I am a registered nurse and a whistleblower who raised concern over the unethical practices I witnessed firsthand while working in the cosmetic surgery industry.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## **Digital professionalism includes using artificial intelligence (AI) for safety and quality outcomes**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Carey Mather, Page 40

How we perform our jobs and the choice of resources we use to inform our decisions are constantly changing. Graduates will now use artificial intelligence (AI) tools in their future careers, and it needs to be embedded into curricula and linked to student graduate attributes.

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## **The use of 3D animation to enhance midwifery education**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 41

Two-dimensional models (2d) (eg. pictures in textbooks) have traditionally been used to teach and guide complex clinical procedures. However, research suggests that introducing three-dimensional (3D) models can reduce workload and improve performance in clinical skills training.

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## **Educating the hospital workforce for disasters: Findings from case study research at three Australian hospitals**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 42

Disasters affecting health and wellbeing of populations and infrastructure are continuing to increase in frequency. Professional responsibility and societal expectations for responding to health-related consequences of disasters rests with nurses and the hospital workforce. Therefore, the workforce must be prepared to respond and deliver care.

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## **The Maternity Emergency Program (MEP): The development of simulation-based maternity education in Queensland**

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Lisa Peberdy, Page 51

Interprofessional maternity emergency training is associated with improvements in perinatal outcomes and has demonstrated improvements in teamwork, knowledge, and clinical skills.

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## **10 ECPs to be part of 'paradigm shift'**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has appointed 10 Early Career Pharmacists (ECPs) from around Australia to lead the ECP Community of Specialty Interest (CSI), and support ECP Board Director Ayomide Ogundipe (pictured), who is also the CSI Chair. The ECP CSI will be led, besides Ogundipe, by Abby Richardson, Elissar Mansour, Erin Cooper, Jala Moushi, James Buckley, Keiran Batavia, Monique Licht, Raymond Truong, and Shaylee Mills.

[Read More](#)

## Community pharmacists recognised in Queensland Parliament

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/10/2023

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland Branch held its fifth annual Parliamentary Reception at Queensland Parliament House on Wednesday 11 October to celebrate the value of community pharmacy and the positive impact it has on patients across Queensland. Attendees heard keynote addresses from the Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Hon.

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## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

No relevant coverage

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## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

No relevant coverage

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## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

### Shifting focus of legal matters

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal, General News, 01/11/2023, Page 13

As I was preparing for this last legal issues editorial that I will be writing for the journal, I was conscious of the shift in focus of legal matters concerning health professionals over the years. An expert in the field of nursing and the law Associate Professor Linda Starr is in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Flinders University in South Australia.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Queensland police lodge complaint to hospital over treatment of alleged teenage rape victim

The Guardian, Other, 13/10/2023, Eden Gillespie

Queensland police lodged an official complaint to a hospital in August about the treatment of an alleged teen rape victim who said she left the facility feeling "humiliated" without undergoing a full examination. The Central Queensland child protection investigation unit complained to the hospital after learning of the girl's alleged assault from her family.

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## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

## SPORT

### Vic Games costs were based on 'Gold Coast in 2018, plus inflation'

AFR Weekend, General News, 14/10/2023, Gus McCubbing, Page 11

A top Victorian tourism bureaucrat says axing the 2026 Commonwealth Games did not damage the state's reputation for hosting major events and in fact boosted travellers' interest in the state.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Scrapped Games bill at \$600m and counting

Weekend Australian, General News, 14/10/2023, John Ferguson, Page 11

The Victorian government has so far blown nearly \$600m on a Commonwealth Games it will never run as its major events boss conceded he never read the business case. Victoria's Treasury boss David Martine said the total "core" costs of running a failed contract process for the Games jumped to \$555m by August.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### World Cup failure requires a rugby reckoning

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 14/10/2023, Iain Payten, Page 26

Along with a razor sidestep, Brett Papworth always had a sharp turn of phrase. When the former Wallaby centre became president of Eastwood rugby club, Papworth grew concerned and then increasingly outraged about how little money Rugby Australia was spending on the game at grassroots level.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Pool of shame

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/10/2023, Julian Linden, Page 1

A toxic culture of body shaming, verbal abuse and humiliation has plagued Swimming Australia, causing some female swimmers to contemplate suicide and regret taking up the sport even after enjoying Olympic glory. A damning report, which SA has refused to release, found the sport had left some swimmers with lasting eating disorders and mental health issues.

*Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Weekend Australian \(Australia\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).*

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### Game for bizarre claim

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2023, Mitch Clarke, Page 3

Victoria's tourism boss has claimed that cancelling the Commonwealth Games actually boosted international interest in the state. In a statement the opposition dubbed "pure fantasy", Visit Victoria chief executive Brendan McClements told a parliamentary inquiry into the Games fiasco that scrapping the extravaganza had no impact on the state's reputation as a major events destination, despite it making international headlines.

*Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).*

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### Swimming Australia can't keep covering up its filthiest secrets

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2023, Julian Linden, Page 9

It doesn't matter how many gold medals the Dolphins win in the pool at next year's Paris Olympics or at the Brisbane Games in 2032, Swimming Australia will never regain the moral high ground if it keeps covering up its dirtiest secrets. Australia's favourite Olympic sport should be humming along after assembling the best team in the world right now but, yet again, fresh questions will be asked about whether officials are serious about addressing the continued abuse of female participants.

## Our plan for 2032 cricket

Courier Mail, Edition Changes - Metro, 14/10/2023, Robert Craddock, Page 1

Queensland has revealed an audacious plan to take Olympic cricket matches to provincial cities before a blockbuster Gabba final which would be a showpiece of the 2032 Brisbane Games. Cricket will return to the Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028 after going missing for 128 years since its lone appearance in the Paris Games of 1900.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Swimming must stamp out abuse

Courier Mail, Editorials, 14/10/2023, Page 67

Swimming may be a global sport but the natural affinity so many Australians have for water has made us world champions in the pool, and the pride we feel in the accomplishments of our athletes has become an integral part of our national identity. Which is just one reason why a report brought to light in today's Courier-Mail into the experiences of women and girls in Australian swimming is so deeply disturbing.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Perkins slammed for 'scaring off' whistleblowers

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 14/10/2023, Julian Linden, Page 8

Kieren Perkins was secretly criticised by high-level investigators for comments while he was still president of Swimming Australia that they claimed discouraged whistleblowers from testifying. While the panel found Perkins did not intend to intimidate potential witnesses, Australia's highest-ranked sports official was still singled out for the impact of the comments in which he disputed the notion there were cultural issues in the sport.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Australia's best padel players are set to go

Border Mail, General News, 14/10/2023, Layton Holley, Page 2

Albury is gearing up to host the first national padel tournament to be played in a regional centre. The third leg of the 2023 Australian Seniors (35+) Padel Tour will come to Sol Padel in Thurgoona this weekend, October 14-15.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## Gymnasts floored by cut funds

Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 14/10/2023, Crystal Fox, Page 19

Gold Coast gymnastics clubs say the state's recent funding cuts to the sport was a "sad indicator that our country doesn't value this sport highly". On Friday, Gymnastics Queensland chief executive Chris Rushton fronted members at the city's gyms to give them advice on how to handle the next few years after recent funding cuts.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## New generation of Aboriginal boxers fight for place in sporting history, inspired by Indigenous champions

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Jai McAllister

In the early 20th century, Aboriginal boxers made up a disproportionate 15 per cent of national boxing champions. In 1912, Jerry Jerome, a Yiman man born at Jimbour Station in Queensland, defeated Charlie Godfrey to claim the national middleweight championship.

[Read More](#)

## Australian coach Graham Arnold takes aim at Anthony Albanese over football funding as Socceroos prepare for England friendly

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023

Graham Arnold has delivered a withering verdict on the prime minister and other politicians who he believes are happy to wear Matildas and Socceroos scarves but still won't fund Australian soccer. The national men's team coach chose his eve-of-match address before the England clash at Wembley to tell his international audience about what he believes is the severe under-funding of the sport back home, compared with AFL.

*Similar coverage reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#), [The New Daily \(Online\)](#), [Yahoo! News Australia \(Online\)](#).*

[Read More](#)

## How golf got its swing back

Australian Financial Review, Other, 13/10/2023, Richard Allen

From driving ranges to mini-golf and the greens, the game is attracting more women, kids and Millennials in a post-pandemic surge.

[Read More](#)

## Comm Games canning 'increased interest' in Victoria

The Senior, Other, 13/10/2023, Cassandra Morgan and Callum Godde

The cancellation of the 2026 Commonwealth Games has not made it harder for Victoria to attract other major events, the state's tourism agency says. Victoria pulled the pin on hosting the Games in July over cost concerns, with the decision sparking fears the state would suffer long-term reputational damage.

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### CSL feeling bunsen burner

Weekend Australian, Business News, 14/10/2023, John Durie, Page 40

The biotech giant is facing a challenge from a rival drug CSL, undoubtedly one of Australia's best companies, has more dark clouds hanging over its head than normal, as it heads into investor day next week with most question marks over its 2022 \$18.2bn Vifor acquisition. Vifor division head Herve Gisserot is planning to show shareholders how the push into better patient blood management (PBM) will boost his revenues, but recent test results for Denmark-based Novo Nordisk have raised more issues.

*Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#).*

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### Drug offers helping hand

Herald Sun, General News, 14/10/2023, Sarah Booth, Page 26

Melbourne researchers have discovered a low dose of an affordable cancer drug already available in Australia could be repurposed to treat a type of osteoarthritis. The results were published in one of the world's top medical journals, The Lancet, and offered hope against a painful disease that impacts one in two women by the age of 85 and has no effective treatment.

*Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).*

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### Heartening news in fight against disease

Hobart Mercury, General News, 14/10/2023, Page 27

An international team of scientists has analysed data from more than 35,000 people and identified 11 genes that contribute to the hardening of the heart's arteries. It is hoped the findings will lead the way for new treatments that could help prevent coronary heart disease the leading cause of death in Australia.

## Sepsis formula works

Northern Territory News, General News, 14/10/2023, Page 28

Scientists at The Florey Institute in Melbourne have proven that a formulation they pioneered alleviates the chances of deadly sepsis, with the next phase of clinical trials to start rolling out across Australia next month. Promising results from an initial clinical trial at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, published in the journal Critical Care, show that sodium ascorbate - a pH-balanced formulation of vitamin C - is effective in treating sepsis.

Also reported by: [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#)

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## Consultancy costs rise in some of Queensland government's biggest departments

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Jack McKay

Queensland government departments and agencies have spent more than \$50 million on consultants in the past year, with some recording significant hikes in their consultancy costs. The increased spending in some departments follows a warning from a major integrity review of an "over-reliance" on external contractors and consultants within the state's public service.

[Read More](#)

## New Research Reveals Impact of Menopause Symptoms on Australian Women

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/10/2023

A ground-breaking report, authored by leading menopause experts and based on Jean Hailes for Women's Health's 2023 National Women's Health Survey, offers a first-of-its-kind look into how Australian women experience menopause symptoms. The nationally representative findings indicate that the workplace impact of menopause symptoms may be overstated, while underscoring the importance of timely medical consultations during perimenopause.

[Read More](#)

## Chinese herbal medicine offers hope for memory loss, trial shows

Yahoo! News Australia, Other, 13/10/2023, Carl Samson

A world-first clinical trial in Australia has found that Sailuotong (SLT), a Chinese herbal medicine compound, can significantly improve memory and executive functions in people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

### An open-hearted 'Yes'

The Saturday Paper, General News, 14/10/2023, Julia Gillard, Page 7

There are few forces more fundamental to human flourishing than belonging. The feeling of acceptance that comes from deep bonds of connection can be psychologically protective an anchor steadying the ship.

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

### Close the gap, no matter the vote

Courier Mail, General News, 14/10/2023, Hayden Johnson, Page 7

Advocates have called on Australia to sharpen its focus on closing the gap for indigenous outcomes no matter the result of today's poll. With a string of published opinion polls indicating the No case is likely

to succeed, advocacy groups are urging both sides of the debate to revisit the Closing the Gap report card once the messy political bickering is over.

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## **Jail teen's tragic plea**

The West Australian (Saturday edition), General News, 14/10/2023, Josh Zimmerman, Page 11

The Aboriginal teen fighting for life in hospital pleaded through his lawyers to be moved from Unit 18 to Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre just two weeks before he attempted to take his own life. In a statement, the Aboriginal Legal Service (WA) revealed it had advocated for the 16-year-old to be transferred out of Unit 18 on September 28 as the oppressive conditions in the prison were impacting his mental health.

Also reported by: [West Australian \(Online\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

## **Land cleansing at health centre site**

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 14/10/2023, Page 18

A cultural ceremony and land cleansing has been held at the site of the new Wentworth Health Service Redevelopment, co-designed by the Aboriginal Advisory Group. Led by Far West Local Health District with Aboriginal elders involved, the event included a traditional smoking ceremony as well as didgeridoo, song, poetry recital and dance performances.

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## **Earbus Foundation nominated for national business award for tireless effort to combat ear disease**

West Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Xander Sapsworth-Collis

The organisation working to eradicate middle ear disease in the Pilbara has just been nominated for a prestigious nation-wide business award. The Earbus Foundation is a not-for-profit mobile medical clinic that conducts trips to remote parts of WA to treat Aboriginal and at-risk children suffering from otitis media (middle ear infection).

[Read More](#)

## **RAAF dental drill combats plaque in Derby**

West Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Cain Andrews

The Royal Australian Air Force will touch down in Derby this month for Exercise Kummundoo and while it may sound like the latest live fire exercise, the only enemy these air force personnel will be fighting is dental plaque and gum disease. Throughout October, RAAF dentists will be stationed in Derby and will help local services deliver much-needed dental care to the community in an effort to address the challenges of accessing dental treatment in the Kimberley.

[Read More](#)

## **Chief emergency doctor Stephen Gourley says Voice to Parliament key to better health, reconciliation**

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Emma Haskin

One of the nation's most esteemed emergency physicians, Stephen Gourley, is backing the Voice to Parliament, saying it is a vital step towards meaningful reconciliation and improving the health outcomes of Indigenous Australians. Alice Springs-based Dr Gourley, president elect of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, described the Voice to Parliament as "a once in a lifetime opportunity to take another step down the road to reconciliation, which we desperately need as a country".

[Read More](#)

## **Jacinta Nampijinpa Price says the gap in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is 'more about place than race'. Is that correct?**

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Matt Martino

The claim In a speech to the Conservative Political Action Conference ahead of the Voice to Parliament referendum, No campaigner and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians Jacinta Nampijinpa Price said that when it comes to Indigenous disadvantage, geography matters more than race.

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## OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Lifesavers in green at festival scene

Daily Telegraph, General News, 14/10/2023, Madeline Crittenden, Page 36

Hundreds of thousands will attend a music festival this summer and they will be watched over by St John Ambulance volunteers like lifesavers on a surf beach Elliot Williams remembers well the day a music festival almost turned deadly for a young fan. Mr Williams - now the St John NSW deputy commissioner said the teenager was brought in over heating and blacking out.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#)

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### Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Week 2023

Retail Pharmacy, Other, 13/10/2023

The theme for IPC Week this year is Celebrating the Fundamentals of Infection Prevention, emphasising the importance of getting back to basics for everybody working in IPC. The Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) sees Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) professionals as a basic and fundamental part of the success of IPC implementation and keeping the public safe and healthy.

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### ABC Radio Sydney, Mornings, 13/10/2023, Sarah MacDonald

Interview with Dr Graham Edwards, Fellow with the Royal Australian College of Physicians and Former member of the National Dust Diseases Task Force. Edwards discusses NSW Government's new bill for people doing the wrong thing, following the alarming rise in silicosis. He says it is a welcome initiative to make the penalties reflect the magnitude of the crime.

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## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Synthetic bone laboratory, manufacturing facility opens in Broome using mother of pearl

ABC Online, Other, 13/10/2023, Alys Marshall

The use of mother of pearl as a human bone substitute is one step closer, with a state-of-the-art laboratory and manufacturing facility opening in Western Australia's north. [...] Marine Biomedical has employed five specialist staff at the new facility and will now seek approval from the US Food and Drug Administration and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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### Weed Week: Market stays strong in Australia; big win for cannabis in US

The Australian, Other, 13/10/2023, Eddy Sunarto

Data from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) shows that Australia's medical cannabis industry has remained robust during the first half of 2023. According to the TGA, medical cannabis



approvals through an Authorised Prescriber (AP) have continued to grow rapidly so far this year, reaching approximately 304,000 in the first half, up more than 120 per cent over the same period last year.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#).

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## New vax to fight Omicron

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 13/10/2023

Pfizer Australia and BioNTech this week announced that the TGA has authorised the companies' Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5 in individuals five years and older. Omicron XBB sublineages account for the majority of COVID-19 cases found globally.

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## OFFICE FOR DRUG CONTROL

### Medicinal cannabis: Tailored approach

Launceston Examiner, General News, 14/10/2023, Nick Clark, Page 10

Magistrates will have discretion over an offender's drug treatment order in the event of prescribed medicinal cannabis use, the Department of Justice says. The department also says offenders seeking an drug treatment order as an alternative to prison may not be recommended as suitable candidates by the relevant officers if they are using a prescription for medicinal cannabis.

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## FOOD STANDARDS

### Popular Bondi restaurant Zilver hit with \$5000 in fines for unsafe food practices

NEWS.com.au, Other, 13/10/2023, Elena Couper

One of Sydney's most popular Asian eateries has been slapped with more than \$5000 worth of fines after it was found to be conducting unsafe food practices. Zilver in Bondi Junction received five separate fines on August 18 after officers from Waverley council inspected the premises.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [The Australian \(Online\)](#), [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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